REMARKS

This is in response to an Office Action mailed October 18, 2007, in the above-identified application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner set forth a restriction requirement to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

I.   Claims 1-6, 8-18, 21 and 22, drawn to an apparatus.

II.   Claims 24-31, drawn to a method.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect the invention of Group I, claims 1-6, 8-18, 21 and 22, drawn to an apparatus.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also required Applicants to elect one of the following patentably distinct species:

A.   FIGS. 1-5 wherein the occluding members rotate relative to the longitudinal axis and slide away from the shaft and wherein the operating mechanisms are hydraulic and a ratchet and cable combination.

B.   FIGS. 6-10 wherein the occluding members are angled relative to the longitudinal axis and biased away from the shaft and wherein the operating mechanism is hydraulic.

C.   FIG. 11 wherein the occluding members are not angled and do not rotate relative to the longitudinal axis and wherein the operating mechanism is a screw mechanism.

In response, Applicants elect Species A, FIGS. 1-5, with claims 1-6, 8, 10-12, 15-18, and 21-22 being readable thereon.

As noted above, via the present Response, Applicants have withdrawn claims 9, 13, and 14.

As it is believed that all of the requirements set forth in the Office Action have been satisfied, prompt examination and allowance of the present application are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can

be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 453-2884 in order to overcome any additional objections that she may have.

Dated: November 18, 2007   Respectfully submitted,

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